



**BOSTON RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL**



Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1958

1958
BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council :
Councillor F. MAIDENS, J.P.

Clerk of the Council :
S. M. FORMAN

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health :
W. G. SMEATON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law
(resigned 28th February, 1958)

G. HIRD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(appointed 1st May, 1958)

Chief Public Health Inspector :
G. G. POPPLEWELL, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

P. McPHUN, M.A.P.H.I.
G. FOX, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerks :
C. H. CUTHBERT
Mrs. D. E. WILLIAMS

Medical Officer's Clerk : D. DADY

Rodent Control Officer : A. GRAVES

BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,

126 London Road,
Boston, Lincs.
Telephone : 3271

To the Chairman and Members of the Boston Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Statistical Report on the health conditions of the Rural District during the year 1958.

During the year the health of the community has continued to be satisfactory. From the statistics tabulated on the following pages, it will be seen that the mid-year estimated population is given as 22,200, an increase of 110 on the figure for 1957 and an overall increase of 1,100 in the past 5 years. It will be seen, therefore, that the population of the Rural District is steadily increasing and no doubt this trend is likely to continue.

There were 372 births in 1958 compared with 366 in 1957. The birth rate remains comparatively steady and the average number of births has been 365 over the past 5 years. The birth rate for the district is 16.6 as compared with 16.4 for England and Wales.

Deaths decreased by 66 from 252 in 1957 to 186 in 1958. This is the lowest figure in the past 10 years as will be seen from the table on page 7 which has been introduced this year to give a comparison on the Birth Rate, Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate from 1944 onwards.

There have been fewer deaths this year from Tuberculosis, some forms of cancer and some forms of heart disease. Even so the main cause of death is still Heart and Associated Circulatory conditions accounting for nearly 50% of all deaths. This corresponds to the trend for England and Wales as a whole. The next most important cause is cancer accounting for nearly 20% of deaths. It is interesting to note that of the 5 people dying from Cancer of the lung, 4 were men. This represents 22% of all male cancer deaths.

A big increase last year was in deaths from Motor Vehicle accidents and all other accidents. The figure of 11 for 1958 is the highest for many years and represents a figure of approximately 8% of the total number of deaths in the Rural District. This is about twice the national average which is roughly 4% of all deaths.

The number of deaths and casualties on the roads is appallingly high in the Country as a whole and it would appear that the Rural District is no exception to the rule. It is not for me to reiterate the many causes put forward to account for the National road carnage but I feel that such a high figure for accidents in general must give rise for some concern.

Infectious diseases gave rise to little or no concern during 1958. I have made reference to this subject in the substance of the report. A new table on page 11 dealing with infectious diseases notified in the 10 year period, 1949 - 1958, gives comparative figures of the various infections and their variation through the years. It is interesting to note the periodic epidemics of measles practically every second year; the fall in the number of cases of Whooping Cough, no doubt in some measure due to immunisation; the fact that there have been no cases of Diphtheria in the past 10 years, again due to immunisation.

With regard to Tuberculosis which has been dealt with separately, the new notifications of pulmonary infection numbered 7 as compared with 8 in 1957. Two new tables on the subject give an indication of events during 1958 (Table I) and for the past 10 years (Table II). It will be seen that the number of cases on the register shows a gradual decrease, the number of yearly notifications diminishing in the past few years.

With regard to other aspects of environmental hygiene, the commencement of new sewage schemes in Frampton and Kirton was a notable event during the year. The sanitary Pail Emptying Services were re-organised and though the numbers have been reduced to 1,655, this figure is still too high. Details of this service are given in tabular form.

Cesspool emptying continued throwing heavy demands on the service and there is no indication that this state of affairs is likely to improve in the immediate future. The disposal of this material produces periodic complaints from residents in the Borough of Boston and it may well be that this matter will prove to be a serious problem for the Rural District in years to come. Details of the service are also given in full.

Refuse collection at weekly intervals is a service that few rural districts enjoy. Tipping is done at various scattered points throughout the district and every effort is made to maintain this in a satisfactory manner. The tips already in use will be completed in time and refuse disposal will undoubtedly become a major problem in the Rural District. Details of the service are given later in tabular form.

The tables on Refuse Collection, Pail and Cesspool Emptying Services have been introduced this year in order to give the Council some idea of the magnitude and the cost of each service. The tables give these details but no indication of the time, the trouble and the associated worry entailed in the organisation and improvement of these very necessary services. The public are often apt to forget that much of their present day environment and standard of living depends on the steady improvement in the field of sanitation by public health personnel. The cost of these services in the Rural District compares very favourably with other Rural Authorities.

The number of animals killed continues to increase and it is gratifying to note that 100% meat inspection was achieved. This is in no small way due to the fact that all the inspectors are called upon to undertake this task outside their normal hours of work and often at week-ends. This service rendered by local authorities is often taken for granted, but nevertheless it is a most vital one from the public health point of view.

In conclusion I wish to convey my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council for their continued support. I also wish to thank the officers in other departments for their help and also Mr Popplewell, the Chief Public Health Inspector and all other members of the staff in the Health Department for their considerable assistance during the year, especially in the preparation of this report.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. HIRD.

June, 1959

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	.. .. .	84,398
Home Population (Registrar-General's Mid-year estimate for 1958)	.. .. .	22,200
Number of inhabited houses	.. .. .	7,315
Average number of persons per inhabited house	..	3.0
Average number of persons per acre	.. .. .	.26
Number of inhabited houses per acre	.. .. .	.09
Average number of persons per square mile	.. .. .	168
Estimated product of a penny rate	.. .. .	£520
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1958	.. .. .	£134,854

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The social conditions of the district have remained unchanged during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	193	165	358
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	11	3	14
Total Live Births					204	168	372
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude)							16.8
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (adjusted)							16.6

Still Births					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	6	5	11
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Total Still Births					6	5	11
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births						..	28.7

Total Live and still births					Male	Female	Total
					210	173	383

Infant Deaths.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	2	2	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
Total					3	2	5

Infant Mortality Rates :—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	13.4
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births			11.2
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births			71.4

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Total					1	1	2

Neonatal Mortality Rates :—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	.. .. .	5.4
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	5.6
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births		Nil

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births 3.8 %

Maternal Mortality

Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	.. .. .	1
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)		2.6

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
All Causes	95	91	186
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (crude) ..	..		8.4
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (adjusted)	..		7.9

OBSERVATIONS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

In the following comments on the Vital Statistics both the crude birth and death rates are given together with the rates after adjustment by the Comparability Factors. These factors have been supplied by the Registrar-General, and are intended to afford a means of adjustment to allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas. Consequently, the adjusted birth and death rates enable a more accurate comparison to be made with the corresponding rates in other areas.

It is also emphasised that undue significance should not be attached to rates which are based on very small numbers (*e.g.* infant mortality) and that a comparison of such rates with those in other areas, or with earlier years may have little statistical significance.

POPULATION :

The Registrar-General's estimate of the home population for the mid-year, 22,200 shows an increase over the figure for the previous year which was 22,090. The number of births for the year exceeded the number of deaths by 186.

BIRTHS :

A total of 372 live births (204 male, 168 female) were registered in 1958. This gives a crude birth rate of 16.8 and an adjusted rate of 16.6, an increase on the rates for 1957 which were 16.6 and 16.4 respectively. The rate for the whole of England and Wales was 16.4. The number of illegitimate live births was 14, a reduction of 3 from the previous year.

STILL BIRTHS :

Still births amounted to 11 which gives a Still Birth Rate of 28.7, which is an increase from 1957 when the rate was 8.1 The rate for England and Wales was 21.6.

MATERNAL MORTALITY :

There was unfortunately one death from this cause in 1958 giving a Maternal Mortality Rate of 2.6 per 1,000 total births.

INFANT MORTALITY :

Five deaths of infants under the age of 1 year occurred in 1958, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 13.4, the lowest rate at least in the past 15 years. The figures for 1957 and 1956 were 24.6 and 30.4 respectively.

The number of deaths occurring in infants under 4 weeks of age was 2, giving a Neonatal Mortality Rate of 5.4 as compared with 21.9 in 1957.

Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates in Boston Rural District, 1944 - 1958

Year	No. of Births	Crude Birth Rates	No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rates	Infant Mortality Rates	Average 5 years		
						Birth Rates	Death Rates	Infant Mortality Rates
1944	374	19.7	183	9.6	32.1	19.5	9.7	35.8
1945	371	19.5	174	9.1	29.7			
1946	398	19.7	213	10.6	47.7			
1947	408	19.9	202	9.9	41.7			
1948	361	18.6	179	9.2	27.7			
1949	329	16.3	200	9.9	24.3	17.1	10.6	21.5
1950	363	17.9	229	11.3	27.5			
1951	346	16.6	233	11.2	17.3			
1952	356	17.2	201	9.7	22.5			
1953	375	17.7	226	10.7	16.0			
1954	403	18.9	212	9.9	22.3	16.8	10.1	23.2
1955	356	16.5	228	10.6	25.3			
1956	329	15.0	224	10.2	30.4			
1957	366	16.6	252	11.4	24.6			
1958	372	16.8	186	8.4	13.4			

DEATHS :

The actual number of deaths allocated to the district after the deduction of those occurring in non-residents and the addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the district was 186, a reduction of 66

from the previous year. The resulting crude death rate of 8.4 and an adjusted rate of 7.9 compared favourably with the corresponding rates for 1957, which were 11.4 and 10.0 respectively. The death rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.7 per 1,000 population. I have already commented on some of the main causes of death in the introduction to the report.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICT IN 1958.

No.	Cause of Death				Males Females	
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	—	—
8.	Measles	..	..	..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	1	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	4	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	—	6
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	13	7
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	..	..	..	2	1
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	3	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	9	16
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	19	9
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	—	1
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	8	19
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	2	5
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	5	4
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	6	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	1	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	..	..	..	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	1	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	—	1
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	2	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	6	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	8	1
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	3	—
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	—	—
ALL CAUSES					95	91

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES :

Advantage has again been taken of the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at Lincoln. Samples of ice cream and water have been regularly submitted for bacteriological examination.

The Laboratories of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London, have continued to carry out chemical examinations of water samples on behalf of the Department.

Samples of effluents from the Council Housing Estates sewage works have been examined by the Department's Public Health Inspectors using a Field Testing Outfit.

AMBULANCE SERVICE :

This service is provided and maintained by the Holland County Council through the County Transport Department.

SCHOOL MEDICAL AND MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES :

These services are administered by the Holland County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS :

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision and administration of Treatment Centres and Clinics is delegated to the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council.

The treatment of Scabies and similar complaints is carried out at the Cleansing Station, London Road, Boston, which is under the control of the County Council.

NURSING IN THE HOME :

The home nursing service is under the control of the Local Health Authority.

HOSPITALS :

All Hospitals in the area are under the control of the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board. Details of the facilities available in Boston and District are as follows :

Boston General Hospital — Acute General.

London Road Hospital, Boston — Orthopaedic and Acute General.

White House Hospital, Fishtoft — Infectious and Chest Diseases.

Wyberton West Hospital, Boston — Medical and Maternity.

Woodlands Court, Kirton — Aged Sick.

Freiston Hall Children's Hospital — Sick Children.

Bargate Clinic and Physiotherapy Centre, Boston — Physiotherapy
and Orthoptics.

**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47 — REMOVAL
TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE
AND ATTENTION :**

No action was taken by the Council under this Section.

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES.**

The following table shows the total number of infectious diseases notified during the year, the numbers admitted to hospital, and the total number of deaths :

Notifiable Diseases during the year, 1958.

Disease	Cases Notified	Confirmed Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Acute Poliomyelitis :				
Paralytic	2	Nil	2	Nil
Non-Paralytic	2	1	2	Nil
Chicken Pox	123	123	6	Nil
Erysipelas	3	3	Nil	Nil
Food Poisoning	8	8	2	Nil
Malaria : Contracted abroad	1	1	1	Nil
Measles	14	14	1	Nil
Pneumonia	14	14	6	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	Nil	Nil
Scabies	7	7	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	14	14	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	32	32	1	Nil

1958 was a comparatively quiet year from the infectious disease point of view. As will be seen from the adjoining table, Chicken Pox was by far the most prevalent disease followed far behind by Whooping Cough. Measles cases were few in number as was to be expected following the heavy epidemic of 1957.

It was gratifying to note that there was only 1 confirmed case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis and the low rate of this particular disease was widespread over the country as a whole. The fact that only 1 case occurred in the Rural District must not give rise to complacency and vaccination against the disease is of prime importance.

During the year the Public Health Inspectors made 113 visits in connection with investigation and control of infectious diseases and 2 disinfections were carried out.

Infectious Diseases Notified 1949-1958.

Disease	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
Chicken Pox	123	81	180	275	166	155	137	233	63	171
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	61	69	12	30	—	1	1	—
Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or typhoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	3	1	5	3	2	2	5	3	4	4
Food Poisoning	8	3	10	7	—	11	2	1	3	11
Malaria (contracted abroad) ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	14	905	55	402	10	682	126	313	324	70
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Paratyphoid fevers ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	14	14	12	21	11	29	18	13	11	17
Poliomyelitis: Paralytic	—	5	—	1	—	4	—	—	5	2
Non-paralytic	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	1	1
Scabies ..	7	—	—	1	3	2	3	4	6	9
Scarlet Fever	14	18	23	45	33	19	11	14	10	23
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	32	97	30	33	153	95	40	219	83	66

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

Table I

	Males		Females		Total
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	
(a) Number of cases on Register at beginning of year	47	7	51	5	110
(b) Number of cases notified for first time in year	4	1	2	4	11
(c) Number of cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Number of cases added to Register other than by formal notification	—	—	1	—	1
(e) Number of cases removed from Register during the year	5	1	9	1	16
(f) Number of cases remaining on Register on 31st December, 1958	46	7	45	8	106

SUMMARY OF CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1949 — 1958

Table II

Year	Cases on Register			Notifications each year			Deaths		
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total
1949	100	27	127	16	5	21	2	—	2
1950	107	25	132	20	1	21	5	2	7
1951	101	23	124	25	9	34	5	1	6
1952	91	18	109	15	—	15	—	—	—
1953	93	10	103	22	5	27	5	1	6
1954	98	9	107	16	1	17	3	1	4
1955	97	10	107	11	3	14	—	—	—
1956	101	12	113	11	2	13	—	—	—
1957	98	12	110	8	2	10	1	—	1
1958	91	15	106	7	5	12	1	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS :

Cases notified within the Rural District come under the control of Dr. A. M. Forrest, Chest Physician, South Lincolnshire Area.

The following table gives details of new cases notified and deaths occurring during the year.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Over 65	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total	4	3	1	4	1	—	—	—

TREATMENT OF SCABIES :

Facilities for the cleansing of persons requiring treatment are provided by the Holland County Council, the cost of such treatments in respect of persons other than school children being charged to the District Council. Should medical practitioners request treatment for patients, details of notifications are immediately passed to the County Council thus ensuring that infected persons receive early treatment.

During the year 7 cases of Scabies were notified in the District, and in each case treatment was provided at the Boston Cleansing Station.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA :

All immunisation work within the District is under the jurisdiction of the Holland County Council. Below are given details of the number of children immunised during the year :

Under 1 year	195
1 and under 5 years	13
5 - 14 years	13
	<hr/>
	221
Number of Booster Injections ..	181

The percentage of children immunised in relation to the child population at 31/12/1958 is as follows: .

Under 1 year	11.7%
1 and under 5 years	72.6%
5 - 14 years	89.8%

The immunisation of children against Diphtheria continues steadily though it has been overshadowed to some extent both in the time and publicity devoted to the Poliomyelitis Vaccination Scheme. Nevertheless

Diphtheria immunisation is a most necessary procedure as it is largely due to widespread use of the vaccine in the past 15 years that Diphtheria has largely disappeared at the present time. The figure given for those immunised under the age of 1 year is necessarily small as only a small proportion of children born in 1958 can complete the necessary injections by the end of December 1958. The figure of 11.7 is lower than that for 1957 however, and it is possible that this is in some measure associated with the policy of the County Council in using single antigens for Whooping Cough and Diphtheria. It may be that a number of mothers do not return for the Diphtheria immunisation having had their children protected against Whooping Cough at an earlier age.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX :

Primary Vaccinations :

Under 1 year ..	..	..	..	..	121
1 year ..	..	..	..	..	3
2 - 4 years ..	..	..	..	..	7
5 - 14 years ..	..	..	..	..	6
15 years and over ..	..	..	..	..	9
					<hr/> 146

Re-vaccinations :

1 year ..	..	..	..	..	Nil
2 - 4 years ..	..	..	..	..	Nil
5 - 14 years ..	..	..	..	..	Nil
15 years and over ..	..	..	..	..	6
					<hr/> 6

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS :

The campaign of vaccination against Poliomyelitis continued to flourish during the year. In the Rural District, approximately 3,500 persons were immunised, the majority of those being children under the age of 15. The percentage of children under 15 who have taken advantage of the scheme for the County as a whole was 62% which is well up to the national average. Expectant mothers and adolescents up to the age of 25 were other categories who became eligible for vaccination during 1958 but the response in the 15 - 25 age group was extremely low and it was estimated that only 10% were availing themselves of the opportunity to receive vaccination. It is hoped that by continued publicity there will be a much greater response in the future. A supply of registration cards was made available at the Council Offices but the demand for them was small and to say the least, disappointing.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. W. R. Beardall, the Council's Water Engineer, for the following report on the Rural Water Supply.

Statistics.

Length of mains laid during the year	..	..	..	1640 yds.
Total length of mains in use	..	..	..	371 miles
Domestic consumption of water	..	..	122,778,000	galls.
Average daily consumption per house	..	..	..	60.3 galls.
Estimated consumption per person per day	..	..	..	15.66 galls.
Number of domestic consumers	..	..	..	5,573
Number of properties supplied by meter	..	..	..	1,607

Particulars of number of dwellings supplied.

<i>Parish</i>							<i>Dwellings</i>
Algarkirk	..	..	..	..	..	..	160
Amber Hill	..	..	..	..	..	..	131
Bicker	..	..	..	..	..	..	248
Benington	..	..	..	..	..	..	172
Brothertoft	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
Butterwick	..	..	..	..	..	..	183
Fishtoft	..	..	..	..	..	..	996
Frampton	..	..	..	..	..	..	371
Freiston	..	..	..	..	..	..	362
Fosdyke	..	..	..	..	..	..	142
Harts Grounds and Pelhams Lands	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Kirton	..	..	..	..	..	..	1012
Leverton	..	..	..	..	..	..	214
Old Leake	..	..	..	..	..	..	470
Sutterton	..	..	..	..	..	..	354
Swineshead	..	..	..	..	..	..	563
Wigtoft	..	..	..	..	..	..	162
Wrangle	..	..	..	..	..	..	424
Wyberton	..	..	..	..	..	..	867

The figure for Fishtoft parish includes 627 dwellings supplied by the Borough of Boston.

Water Analysis.

42 samples of water drawn from the mains at various points in the District were submitted by the Public Health Department for analysis to the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene or to the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln. The results showed the water to be satisfactory.

Representative results of analyses are as follows :

- (a) BACTERIOLOGICAL, taken at Church Lane, Algarkirk.
Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37°C.
0 per 100ml.

- (b) CHEMICAL, taken at Sutterton Water Tower.

<i>Chemical Characters</i>	<i>Parts per 1,000,000</i>
Total solids dried at 180°C.	480
Loss on ignition (after re-carbonating) ..	—
Chlorine in Chlorides	25
„ × 1.647 – Sodium Chloride ..	41.1
Nitrites	not detected
Nitrogen as nitrates	0.5
Saline Ammonia	0.014
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.056
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ..	0.4
Hardness – Total	310
„ Temporary	210
„ Permanent	100
Poisonous Metals – Lead	not detected
„ „ – Copper	not detected
Free Carbon Dioxide	21.4
Residual Chlorine	not detected
Fluoride	0.11

During the year, for the first time, samples of water were examined to determine their fluoride content. This element appears to play an important part in the protection of teeth from decay when it is present in drinking water in concentrations of approximately 1 part per million. Fluoride is present in the Rural District water supply in only small amounts.

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ON THE
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA
HOUSING.**

SUMMARY OF NEW DWELLINGS COMPLETED DURING 1958.

Council Houses

Bicker	2
Fishtoft	10
Freiston	4
Kirton	6
Sutterton	3
Wrangle	4
Wyberton	8

37

Private Enterprise	91
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128

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (Public Health and Housing Acts)	49
Dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	25
Number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	24

REMEDY OF DEFECTS.

Informal notices served	23
Statutory notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936	Nil
Statutory notices served under the Housing Act, 1957 Section 9	Nil

ACTION UNDER SECTIONS 16 and 17, HOUSING ACT, 1957.

Demolition Orders made	8
Closing Orders made	4
Undertakings not to relet accepted	9
Undertakings cancelled	2
Dwellings demolished	30
Demolition Orders revoked	1

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Moveable Dwellings licensed	54
Caravans on Council's site	12

The Council's Caravan Site is situated at Saundergate Lane, Wyberton and serves a useful purpose as temporary accommodation for caravan dwellers.

All licensed caravans are inspected to ensure the Public Health Act requirements are satisfied before licence renewal is recommended.

In July a private site was licensed for up to twenty residential caravans in the Wyberton area. This site is ideally placed and is likely to be of value to caravan dwellers who are seeking a site. Unfortunately, however, lack of proper supervision on the part of the licencees resulted in unsatisfactory conditions on the site and it was necessary to warn the licencees on several occasions that the site must be properly controlled.

DRAINAGE.

A contract has been placed and work is proceeding with the laying of main sewers in the parishes of Frampton and Kirton. Work is also proceeding with the extension of the existing Sewage Disposal Works at Frampton.

A small sewage disposal works has been completed to serve the 10 pre-war Council houses in Tooley Lane, Wrangle.

In Wyberton 503 properties are connected to the main sewers and 8 properties on the line of the sewers are still not connected.

In Fishtoft parish 538 properties are connected and 39 on the line of the sewers not yet connected.

The 15 Sewage Disposal Plants on Housing Estates now serve 661 dwellings and the Lagoons at Kirton and Butterwick serve a total of 102 dwellings.

It is estimated that about 5500 dwellings in the district are served by cesspool type drainage systems or have no disposal arrangements proper.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The whole of the Council's District now enjoys a weekly refuse collection and the extremely small number of complaints received may be taken as an indication of the public's satisfaction with the service.

A new S. & D. Chelsea Side Loader vehicle was purchased in July and put into service on the outlying parts of the South Side of the District to replace the old Dennis vehicle which has now been overhauled and made available as a spare in case of breakdowns.

The two Fore and Aft Tipper vehicles with their greater body capacities and larger cabs serve the more urban areas from Swineshead in the South West to Benington in the North East, while the extreme North East is served by a fourteen year old Dennis vehicle.

A number of tips are in use, selected as far as possible for their isolated positions from a nuisance standpoint, yet not too far distant from the collecting areas they serve. The tip at Silt Pit Lane, Wyberton was not used during the summer months because of the possibility of fly nuisance to a nearby house. Two new tips were commenced to ease the tipping position in the Wyberton and Frampton parishes, one at Ralphs Lane, Frampton and the other near the Sleaford Road, Frampton Fen.

Refuse collected and disposed of is estimated at 5000 tons.

There were further instances of unauthorised tipping and sorting on the tips but as this usually takes place in the evenings or at week ends it is difficult to prevent. Every effort is made to help people who have refuse they wish to dispose of, provided they will request permission and arrange to deposit the materials when someone from the Department can be on hand to ensure it is placed in a part of the tip which will cause no further handling nor nuisance.

REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE SUMMARY

Round No.	One	Two	Three	Four
Vehicle No.	JL 9912	JJL 727	LDO 55	MDO 664
Purchased	1945	1956	1957	1958
Capacity – cu. yds.	10	16/18	16/18	10.5
Engine Type	Petrol	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel
Average miles per gallon	7½	11	10	14
Average miles per week	181	155	135	205
No. of men in team	2	4	4	3
Refuse bins on round	1091	2244	2305	1603
Average bins per man per day	99	102	105	97
Density—bins per mile	6	14½	17	8

Note: When men can be spared from other duties, rounds 1 and 2 are each allowed a man additional to those shown in the teams above.

	1958	1957	1956
Estimated cost of Refuse Collection Service	£10,560	£9,100	£8,600
Cost of emptying per bin	29/2d.	25/3d.	25/4d.
Cost per bin per collection	7d.	6¼d.	7¾d.
Average period between emptyings	7 days	8 days	9 days

Since 1954 the number of bins has risen from 6216 to 7243, representing an increase of 16.5%.

Total miles covered by Refuse vehicles during 1958 on Refuse and Salvage collection and also on tip control – 36,625.

This compares with 36,640 miles for 1957 and 36,075 for 1956.

SANITARY PAIL EMPTYING.

As a result of the Council's decision to convert all its houses having pail closets to water closets, there has been a considerable reduction in the number of pails requiring to be emptied by this service. In consequence it was possible to reorganise the service and in March the number of

employees on each of the two vehicles was reduced from three to two. In due course it may be possible to cut the cost of this service still further as more conversions take place. Unfortunately the number of dwellings using the service, Council houses excepted, tends to increase rather than decrease.

It seems regrettable that vast sums of money can be made available in attempts to reach the moon when such a primitive system of sewage disposal continues to serve nearly a quarter of the dwellings in a district such as this. As a mongrel dog circles the earth in outer space at supersonic speeds, way below, civilised man still uses the bucket latrine.

However, those unfortunate people who have little choice in the matter continue to “enjoy” the emptying service at 5 day intervals.

Disposal of the collections causes no serious problem, as the manurial value of the composted product is appreciated by the farmers who make land and straw available at suitable points in the District.

PAIL EMPTYING SERVICE SUMMARY.

Round No. 	One	Two	
Vehicle No. 	CDO 472	FDO 870	
Purchased 	1948	1953	
Capacity 	700 gallons	700 gallons	
Engine Type 	Petrol	Petrol	
Average miles per gallon 	7½	5	
Average miles per 4 days 	195	130	
Number of men in team 	2	2	
Number of pails on round 	731	924	
Average pails per man per day ..	91	115	
Density—Pails per mile 	4	7	
	1958	1957	1956
Estimated cost of Pail Emptying Service	£4080	£4785	£4360
Cost of emptying per pail 	49/4d.	54/0d.	44/6d.
Cost per pail per collection 	9¼d.	10d.	8¼d.

Each round is completed in four days' collections. So in practice each dwelling served by a pail is visited by the Service five times in every four weeks.

Since 1954 the number of pails has fallen from 2013 to 1655, representing a decrease of 18%.

Total miles covered by pail collection vehicles during the year 1958 – 19,590.

This compares with 22,115 miles in 1957 and 20,302 in 1956.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

In addition to the two vehicles employed full time on this service it was necessary to use the reserve vehicle for a total of over four months during the year to meet the demands for emptying cesspools, vaults and cisterns and desludging the sewage disposal plants at Housing Estates and schools.

Demands were again heavier than in the previous year and this tendency is expected to continue until some relief is afforded by the completion of the sewerage of parts of Kirton and Frampton. It may then be possible to reconsider the case for giving residents in the un-sewered parts of the District a more frequent free service than the once in 18 months as at present.

Disposal of cesspool contents has continued to be by pumping into the sewers of the Borough of Boston at a point in the yard of the old salvage depot at Mount Bridge. Towards the end of the year some objections were raised by occupiers of nearby dwellings to an alleged smell caused by this pumping. The possibility of finding more suitable points for disposal has been explored and, if the negotiations now proceeding with the Corporation of Boston are successful, it may be possible to dispense with the Mount Bridge Point and use others more isolated from dwellings and at the same time considerably reduce the number of journeys made by the vehicles through the town centre.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE SUMMARY.

Vehicle No. 	CJL 86	EJL 401	CDO 934
Purchased	1949	1952	1948
Capacity 	600 glns.	600 glns.	600 glns.
Engine Type 	Petrol	Petrol	Petrol
Average miles per gallon ..	7½	9	8½
Number of men in team	2	2	Reserve vehicle
		1958	1957
Premises given free service 		1462	1379
Chargeable emptyings 		525	390
Vaults emptied—chargeable 		37	33
Vehicle loads removed from cesspools, vaults, etc. ..		3085	2696
Vehicle loads removed from Housing Estate sewage plants 		634	721

Estimated total expenditure of the Cesspool Emptying Service in 1958 £4260
 Estimated income from chargeable work :

	£	
Private premises	712	} £1331
Council Houses	215	
Housing plants	330	
Vaults	74	
Estimated net cost of the Service	£2929	

Total miles covered by the Cesspool Emptying Service vehicles during the year – 42,097.

This compares with 35,184 miles for 1957 and 30,007 miles in 1956.

GENERAL.

The cleansing and maintenance of the vehicles takes place in the Council's Depot. The vehicles are washed and serviced by the drivers under the supervision of one of the mechanics.

In the case of the refuse collection vehicles, this work is carried out once each week after normal working hours. The spare vehicle is kept in a state of readiness to take over the duties of any refuse vehicle which may break down or is needed in the depot for overhaul.

The pail collection vehicles are washed and serviced by the drivers on each Saturday morning and the two Cesspool emptying vehicles are washed and serviced once a fortnight. The spare suction vehicle is ready at all times to take over the duties of any cesspool or pail emptying vehicle or to assist the cesspool emptying service when required.

SALVAGE.

Collection and disposal of salvage continued to be satisfactory. No important changes took place. Collection was by means of trailers attached to the refuse collection vehicles, and sorting and baling by the two female employees using the electric baling machine, which continues to give satisfaction.

Prices for Mixed Waste Paper and Cardboard remained steady at £7 and £8/10/0 per ton respectively, but the price of Paper Sacks fell in December from £11 to £9 per ton.

Details of Materials sold during 1958 are as follows:

	Tons Cwts. Qrs.			£	s.	d.
Cardboard	27	16	0	236	6	0
Paper sacks	14	18	0	163	18	0
Mixed Waste Paper	186	0	0	1302	0	0
Woollens		1	0	4	2	11
Mixed Rags	4	6	0	84	8	0
Bagging	1	10	0	15	12	0
	234	11	0	1806	6	11

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All the food premises in the Council's District have now been visited by the Public Health Inspectors under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

With tactful approach by the Inspectors and co-operation on the part of the occupiers, most of the premises have been brought up to a reasonable standard to comply with the Regulations.

It was, however, necessary in a few cases for the Council to authorise the institution of proceedings for works necessary to comply with the Regulations, but by the end of the year only two premises had not been brought up to standard and these are receiving attention.

Two country bakehouses were closed by the occupiers as they considered they were unable to bring their premises up to the required standard.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The slaughterhouse premises at Benington, referred to in previous Annual Reports, were licensed, thus bringing the number of licensed slaughterhouses up to seven.

All licences expire on the 31st July, 1959 and it is anticipated that new regulations covering hygienic standards and equipment of slaughterhouses, which are at present being considered, will by then be in force and the whole question of slaughterhouses in the District will require to be reviewed.

The scattered positions and distances of the various slaughterhouses from the Department's Office and the varying times slaughtering takes place, make it difficult to ensure full inspection of all animals slaughtered, but every effort is made by the Inspectors to attain a 100% inspection.

MEAT.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed (as notified)	941	—	1	1524	3686	6152
Number Inspected ..	941	—	1	1524	3686	6152
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	139	—	—	31	890	1060
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	14.77%	—	—	2%	24.15%	17.2%
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	3	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	43	—	—	—	182	225
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.57%	—	—	—	4.94%	3.66%
Cysticercosis Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6	—	—	—	—	6
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	—	—	—	—	4
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat condemned – 3 tons, 7 cwt.s., 11½ lbs.

OTHER FOODS.

The undermentioned foodstuffs, found to be unfit for human consumption, were suitably disposed of.

22 tins Cooked Hams	245lbs. 7 ozs.
10 - 56 lb. Boxes Currants	560 lbs.
2 - 12 oz. tins Corned Beef	1 lb. 8 ozs.

The ham containers showed no evidence of bad tinning and it would appear that the fault was in the processing.

MILK.

Number of Distributors of milk registered	21
Number of Dealers licensed for the sale of Pasteurised or Sterilised milk	20
Number of Dealers licensed for the sale of Tuberculin Tested milk	11

ICE CREAM.

Premises registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream ..	1
Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream	55

24 samples of Ice Cream were sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratories at Lincoln. They were placed in the provisional grades as shown below.

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
11	13	—	—

From these figures the standard of purity does not appear to be as high as in previous years.

One sample of Ice Lolly was taken and classified as satisfactory.

FOOD POISONING..

There were 8 cases of Food Poisoning notified during the year. Four cases occurred in one family and the organism responsible was found to be Salmonella Schwarzengrund. In spite of intensive enquiry, it was impossible to ascertain the actual vehicle of infection which was almost certainly food borne.

The other cases occurred in a small outbreak in which all had eaten food in a restaurant outside the rural district. The only common factor of diet consumed was tinned peas and although investigations were made none of the suspected food was recovered for laboratory examination. Similar tins of peas were examined but no organism was isolated. I feel sure that the cause of this outbreak, however, was due to Staphylococci.

The symptoms were severe but all the cases recovered quickly.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The licensed Knackers Yard where animal matter is processed is the only business in the District which comes under this heading.

Further complaints have been received in the Public Health Department concerning these premises. The causes of the complaints appear to be (a) the drainage from the premises overflowing into an adjoining dyke and (b) the effluvia emitted from the factory chimney.

The drainage problem has been temporarily relieved and as a new sewer is to be installed in this area in the near future the trouble should be completely overcome.

Alterations to the Lancashire boiler, which provides heat for raising steam, were carried out to reduce smoke emission and also a return pipe from the steam jacket processing pans, which previously entered directly into the chimney flue, was removed and now discharges over the fire arch inside the heat chamber to the boiler. Observations since made show that nuisance from smoke is considerably reduced and no further complaints have been received in respect of this.

With regard to the effluvia, however, whilst the alterations have given some benefit there are on occasions complaints regarding an unsavoury smell, but inspection at the factory reveals that one of the contributory factors is the extreme pressure being put on the plant by a sudden influx of waste products. This means the material being processed is sometimes 3 or 4 days old.

RODENT CONTROL.

897 properties were surveyed by the Rodent Control Officer in connection with possible rodent infestation. These properties include private dwellings, business premises and a few agricultural premises.

255 infestations were treated with poisoned bait and 7 by gas. Ten of the treatments were on business premises and were charged at the rate of 10/- per hour plus the cost of materials. Treatments at private dwellings were made without charge.

INSECT PEST CONTROL.

A few minor infestations of insect pests were reported. These were dealt with by the Public Health Inspectors.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT, PETROLEUM SPIRIT MIXTURES AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM.

The Chief Public Health Inspector is the appointed Petroleum Officer for the Council's District.

Arising from the meeting of the Petroleum Officers in the County of Holland regarding the model code, it was decided by this Council that all new installations should in future be made strictly in accordance with the Home Office Model Code.

During the year several new installations were carried out, particularly at garages and it appears to be the policy of the Petroleum Companies to instal larger tanks as this cuts their delivery costs.

One of the problems of tank installation in this area is the fact that water is often found at a depth below 4 feet, consequently, where possible it is advisable for tanks to be of greater length and more shallow depth in order to reduce the depth of the chamber.

Several petroleum store premises were visited regarding compliance with the flame proofing of electrical pumps and associated electrical equipment, and generally speaking, it was found necessary for works to be undertaken in order to satisfy the Regulations.

There are many pumps in the area which are obsolete and will require to be replaced. In most cases it is anticipated replacements will have been made by the 1st January, 1960.

The co-operation of the East Midlands Electricity Board has been requested regarding the inspection of associated electrical equipment and inspections are proceeding.

Installations under licence at the end of the year were as follows :

Petroleum Spirit :	Less than 500 gallons	..	..	..	46
	500 to 1000 gallons	..	..	..	145
	More than 1000 gallons	..	..	..	24
Petroleum Spirit Mixtures :	..	..	..	..	6
Carbide of Calcium :	Less than $8\frac{3}{4}$ cwt.	..	..	..	2

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The following tables show the inspections made and defects found at factories in the District during 1958.

Table 1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	3	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	73	40	3	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ..	87	43	3	Nil

Table 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences :				
(a) Insufficient	2	1	Nil	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	5	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	4	6	Nil	1

OUTWORKERS' PREMISES.

So far as can be ascertained no out-work is undertaken in the District.

MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE—Section 34.

Visits were made to factories concerning means of escape in case of fire. Where approved, Certificates were issued and copies forwarded to H.M. Factory Inspector along with sketch drawings of the premises and their means of escape.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS CARRIED
OUT BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS,
ADDITIONAL TO THOSE MENTIONED ELSEWHERE
IN THIS REPORT.

Housing Acts	481
Public Health Act, 1936	19
Housing General	88
Overcrowding	—
Moveable Dwellings	168
Stables and Piggeries	13
Dirty Houses	3
Nuisances	84
Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning	116
Drainage	584
Sewage Sampling	1
Dyke Pollution and Overflowing Cesspools	104
Rodent Control	8
Insect Pests	14
Provision of Refuse Bins	7
Control of Refuse Tips	313
Public Cleansing Services	116
Salvage	8
Slaughterhouses	30
Food Premises	211
Meat Inspection	897
Petroleum Storage	87
National Assistance Act, 1948	—
Miscellaneous	8



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